

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to Office Action of February 12, 2004 in which the following objections were raised: [1] The Drawings were objected to because the lines interconnecting blocks did not clearly illustrate the flow of signal path; [2] Claims 1 and 3-21 were objected to because of informalities; [3] Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McMeekin (McMeekin); [4] Claims 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMeekin (McMeekin); [5] Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMeekin in view of Lagerblom et al. (Lagerblom). [6-7] Claims 5, 10, 13, 18 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowability of Claims 5, 10, 13, 18 and 21 and has Amended all Claims to include the corresponding limitations found by the Examiner to be allowable over the cited references. Applicant has made such amendments in the interest of expediting prosecution and without prejudice to the Applicant's right to contest the Examiner's characterizations of the currently cited references in any continuation or other such filings as may be made by the Applicant.

1. THE DRAWINGS OBJECTED TO BECAUSE OF INFORMALITIES:

The Drawings were objected to because the lines in FIG. 3A-3C interconnecting blocks did not clearly illustrate the flow of signal path.

Applicant has amended all objected to drawings to overcome the rejection. Applicant includes corresponding replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

2. CLAIMS 1 AND 3-21 REJECTED BECAUSE OF INFORMALITIES:

Claims 1 and 3-21 were objected to because of informalities.

Applicant has Amended all remaining objected to Claims to overcome the objections.

3. CLAIMS 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19 AND 20 REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C.

102(e):

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McMeekin (McMeekin).

Applicant has Amended Independent Claim 1, to include the limitations from dependent Claim 5 that were objected to but indicated to be allowable in the Office Action of 2/12/2004. Claims 3, 6, 8 depend from amended Independent Claim 1. Claim 4 has been canceled.

Applicant has Amended Independent Claim 11, to include the limitations from dependent Claim 13 that were objected to but indicated to be allowable in the Office Action of 2/12/2004. Claims 14, 16 depend from amended Independent Claim 11. Claim 12 has been canceled.

Applicant has Amended Independent Claim 19, to include the limitations from dependent Claim 21 that were objected to but indicated to be allowable in the Office Action of 2/12/2004. Claim 20 has been canceled.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and the incorporation of same in the remaining rejected Claims, the Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejection of Independent Claims, 1, 11 and 19 has been overcome. Remaining rejected Claims depend directly or indirectly from these Independent Claims 1, 11 and 19 and are thus believed to have been placed in a condition for allowance for this and other reasons of independent significance.

4. CLAIMS 9 AND 17 REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMeekin (McMeekin).

Applicant has amended Independent Claims 1, 11 from which Claims 9 and 17 depend respectively. For the reasons discussed above with respect to the Independent Claims and for other reasons of independent significance Claims 9, 17 are thus believed to have been placed in a condition for allowance.

5. CLAIMS 7 AND 15 REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 7 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMeekin (McMeekin) in view of Lagerblom et al. (Lagerblom).

Applicant has amended Independent Claims 1, 11 from which Claims 7 and 15 depend respectively. For the reasons discussed above with respect to the Independent Claims and for other reasons of independent significance Claims 7, 15 are thus believed to have been placed in a condition for allowance.

6-7. CLAIMS 5, 10, 13, 18 AND 21 OBJECTED TO AS BEING DEPENDENT UPON A REJECTED BASE CLAIM:

Claims 5, 10, 13, 18 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant gratefully accepts the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in Claims 5, 10, 13, 18 and 21. The limitations of Claim 1 from which Claim 5 originally directly depended have been incorporated into amended Independent Claims 5 and 10. The limitations of Claim 11 from which Claims 13 and 18 originally directly depended

have been incorporated into amended Independent Claims 13 and 18. The limitations of Claim 19 from which Claim 21 originally directly depended have been incorporated into amended Independent Claim 21.

Applicant thus believes that Claims 5, 10, 13, 18 and 21 have been placed in a condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS:

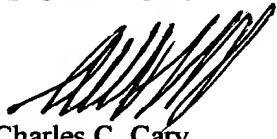
Applicant has added new dependent Claims 22-25, support for which is found throughout the specification and originally filed Claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, and the amendments to the Claims, Applicant believes that all remaining Claims 1,3,5-11 13-19 and 21-25 have been placed in a condition for allowance, and requests that they be allowed. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1338 (Docket No. **VELCP006C**).

Respectfully submitted,
IP CREATORS



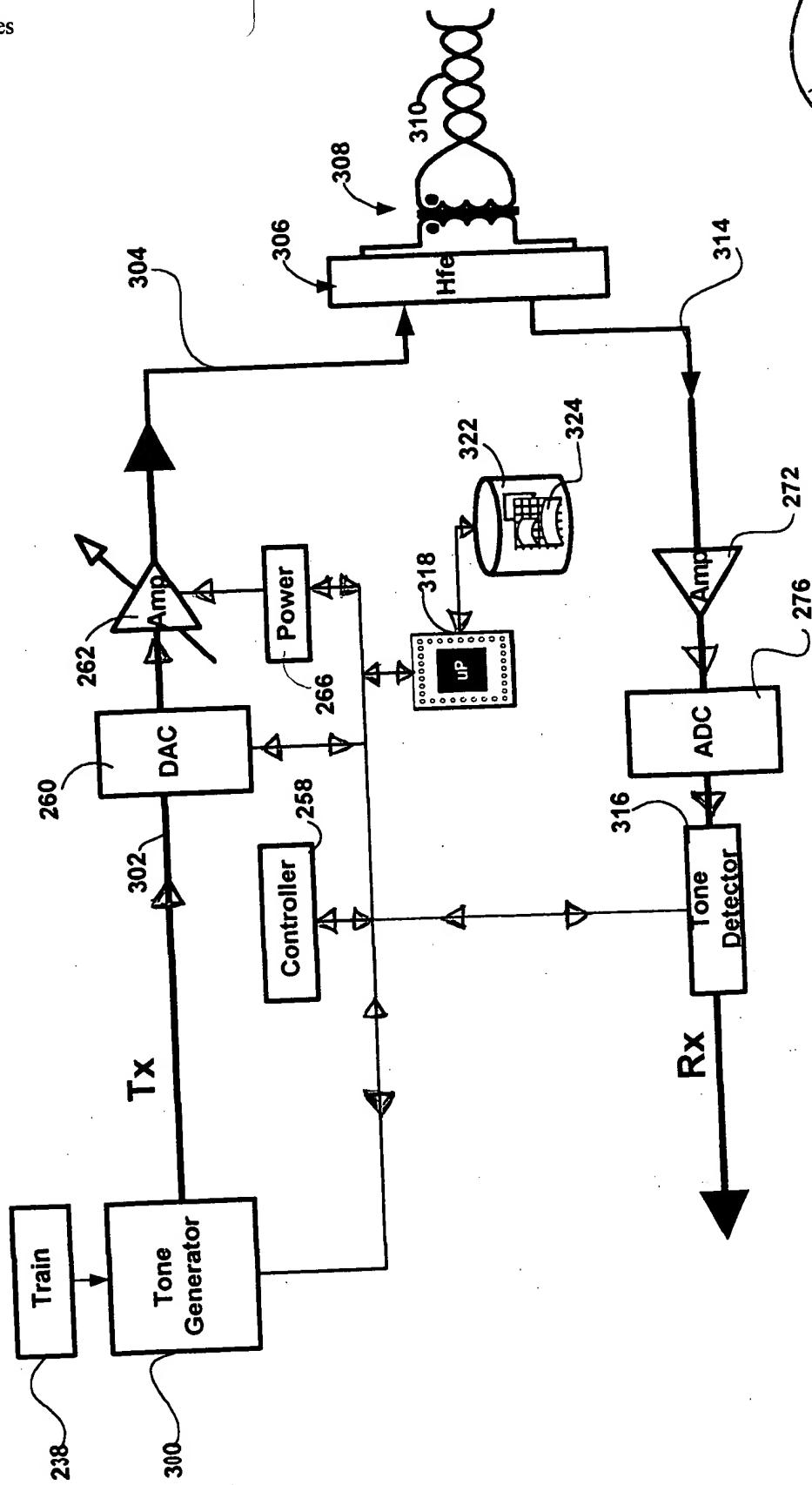
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Setup Phase

FIG. 3A

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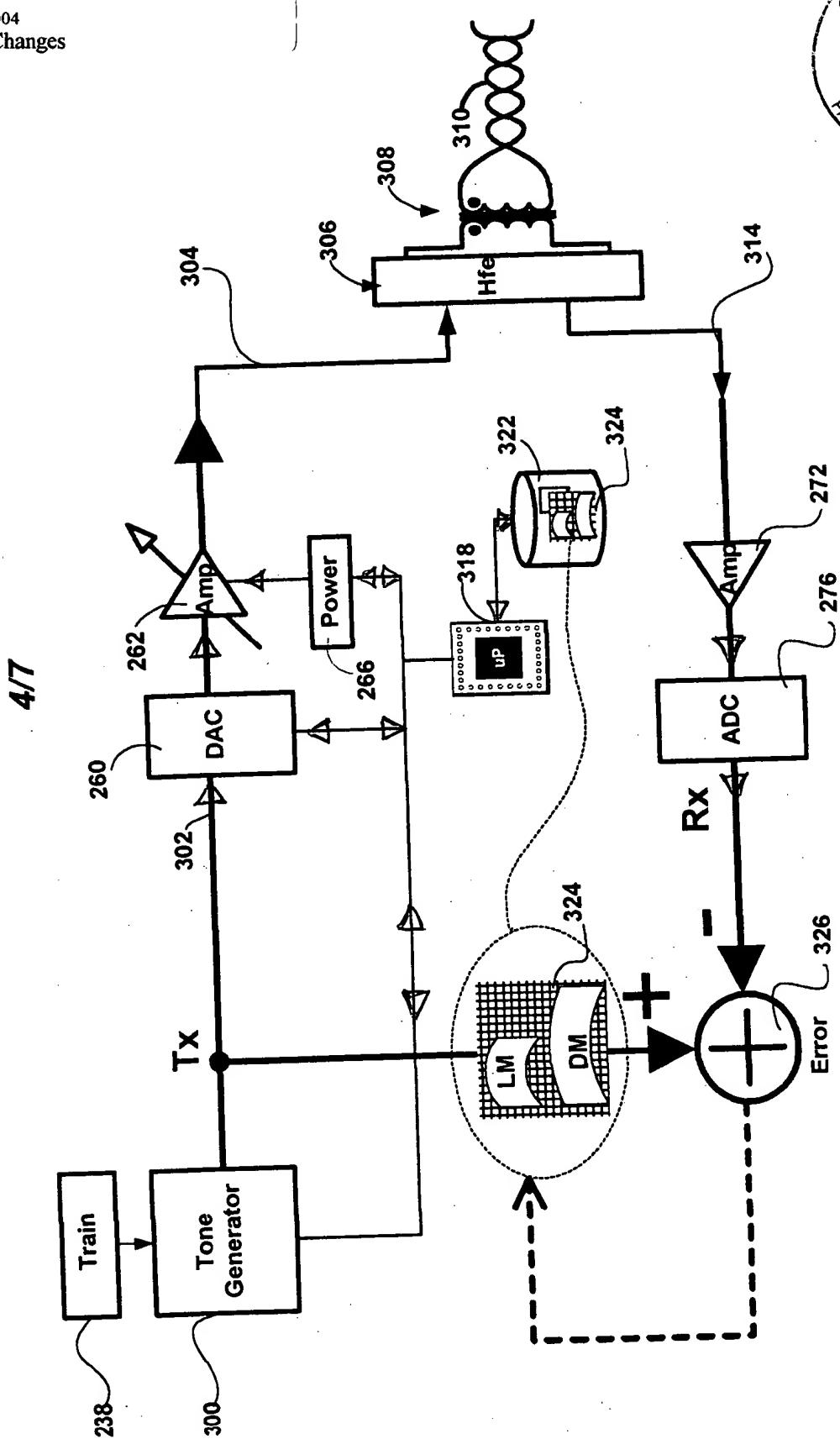


FIG. 3B

Configuration Phase



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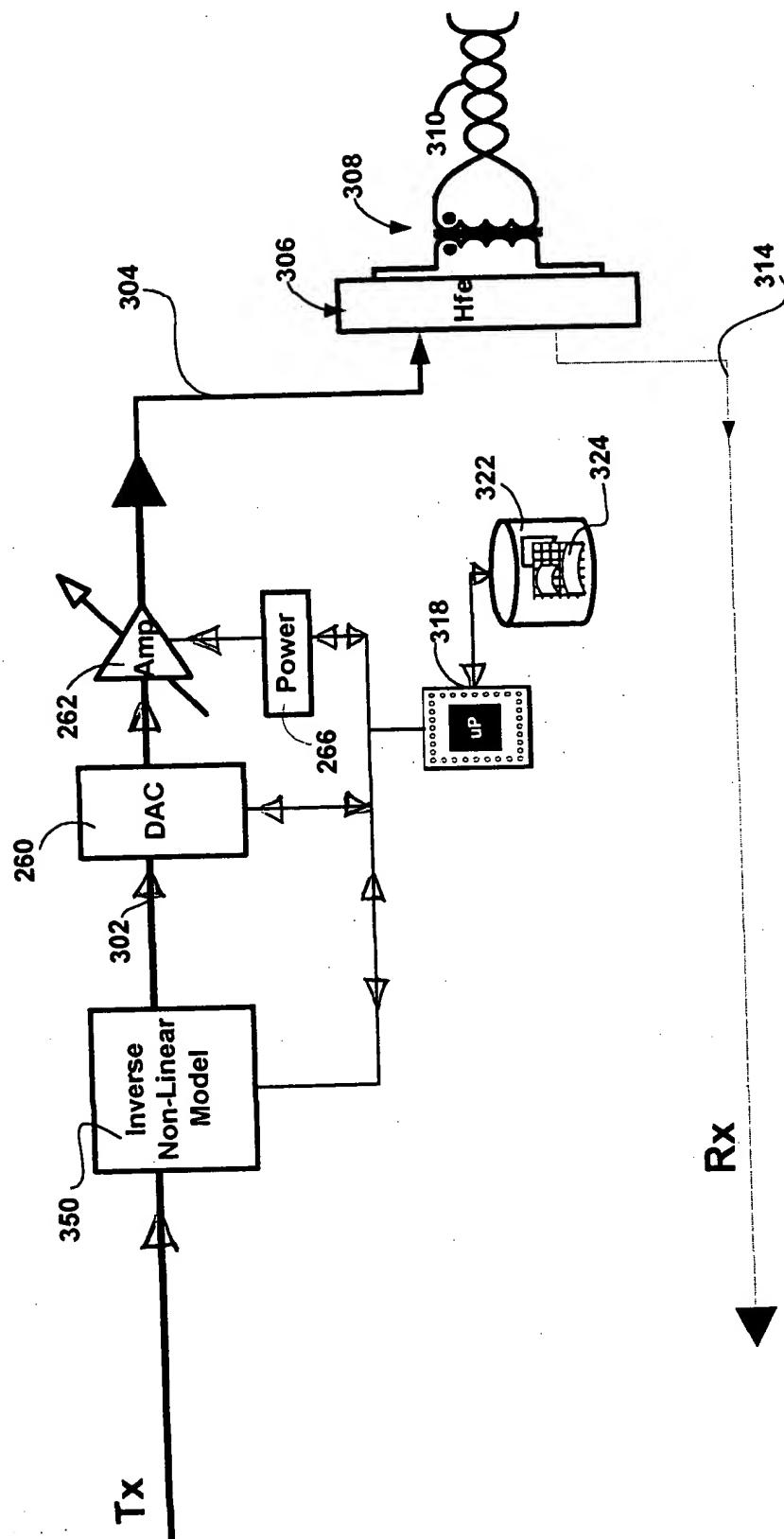


FIG. 3C

Operational Phase